

Message Text

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56

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 MMO-01 IO-13 /084 W

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R 161038Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 861

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT,, TH

SUBJ: STUDENT EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS

1. THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) AND ITS LEFTIST ALLIES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ORGANIZE ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS FOR JULY 20, THE DEADLINE FOR THE CLOSURE OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES. THE NSCT WOULD LIKE TO USE THE OCCASION TO CELEBRATE WHAT THEY CLAIM AS THEIR "VICTORY" OF MARCH 20 WHEN THE RTG ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO HAVE ALL U.S. FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND. ATTEMPTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO KEEP THE DYING ISSUE OF U.S. INFLUENCE ALIVE BY LINKING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THAILAND WITH "U.S. IMPERIALISM" AND BY CONTINUED HARPING ON THE WITHDRAWAL ISSUE.

2. A SIMILAR STRATEGY MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS TO COINCIDE WITH THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL. WHILE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE EXPECTED AT THE SANAM LUANG ON JULY 20, NSCT EFFORTS THIS TIME AROUND SEEM EVEN LESS LIKELY TO STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG THE THAI PUBLIC, AND THERE IS SO FAR LITTLE ENTHUSIASM EVIDENT AMONG THE STUDENT AND LABOR TARGETS OF NSCT AGITATION.

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3. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE
DIRECTED AGAINST THE LEFT. THERE HAS BEEN A PROLIFERA-
TION OF VIOLENCE PRONE RIGHT-WING SPLINTER GROUPS
IN RECENT DAYS. SOME OF THESE GROUPS ARE NOT UNDER
CONTROL BY ANYONE, AND THEY ARE CONSTANTLY BEING
STIMULATED BY NUMEROUS RUMORS ABOUT POSSIBLE TERROR-
IST ATTACKS OR SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES BY LEFT-WING
ELEMENTS. POLICE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT SOME RIGHT-WING
ELEMENTS HAVE DELIBERATELY CREATED SOME OF THESE
RUMORS IN ORDER TO CREATE A SENSE OF CONFUSION
AND AS A POSSIBLE COVER FOR INITIATING VIOLENT ACTION
AGAINST THE LEFT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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